

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
October 21, 2013
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, October 21, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 16, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

The standing of accounts through September 30, 2013, was presented for review. Mr. Hicks explained that what looks like a \$40,000 surplus in the personnel lines will be offset by several other large items. The tuition for out of district placement has risen quite a bit this year and may cost an additional \$22,000; the audit will cost an additional \$7,000; the electricity line may go over by about \$14,000; and the required equipment for kindergarten was more expensive than anticipated. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the standing of accounts through September 30, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that students in grades 4, 8, and 11 took the NECAP Science exams last spring. Overall, Block Island was rated ninth in the state, but we are typically in the top ten. Our eighth grade students scored very well, especially on the inquiry portion.

Mr. Hicks reported that he has set up a Facebook page (Block Island School Future) so community members can be part of the process. Being on Facebook will allow people to join the conversation without having to schedule more meetings. Mr. Hicks feels the next steps would include notifying the community of the Facebook page so they can “like” it; schedule teams to visit a model technology school in Providence and a multiage school in Middletown; conduct a public discussion of one of the documents on the school’s website at upcoming School Committee meetings, disseminating the document through our listserve and encouraging community members to comment on it; and summarizing the lessons learned from the process and the comments of community members at a School Committee meeting in the spring.

New Business

Mr. Hicks amended Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation to be follow the additional guidance received from the Rhode Island Department of Education. The word “rare” has been removed from our policy because it no longer appears in the RIDE model. In addition, Mr. Hicks included wording in the policy that Section E – Role of State Assessments – would become null and void if RIDE reduces or removes the mandate of assessments in graduation. In addition, Mr. Hicks submitted Block Island School’s Waiver Process for the Graduation Examination Requirement for School Committee information. A motion (Connor, Padien) to post Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation for the required 20 days carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve the request from Mona Helterline to home school her daughter, Emily, from January 6-24, 2014, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointments of Tim Keane as the junior high soccer head coach, Callum Crawford as the junior high soccer assistant coach, John Breunig as the varsity soccer head coach, and Kirk Littlefield as the varsity soccer assistant coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the one year contract with Trane in the amount of \$14,008 carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks recommended the approval of a three-year contract with Thyssen Krup for our two elevators in the amount of \$170 per month per elevator. This is slightly more than the last contract, but it includes the cost of the state inspection and four services per year instead of the two we had with the previous company. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the three-year contract with Thyssen Krup in the amount of \$170 per month per elevator carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted a list of projects that he intends to forward to the town for its capital plan. The projects include restoration of the original building's façade, installation of additional solar panels, replacing the black membrane roof, replacing the chair lift, replacing the front entry with a system that is more energy efficient and to provide better security, additional storage space, and drainage improvement around the back playground. We are still waiting on the audit for the final reserve number before deciding which projects can be completed sooner rather than later.

Calendar of Events

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013.

Correspondence

Correspondence, with a check in the amount of \$5,000, was received from the estate of D. Bosley Wilder establishing a memorial scholarship (\$1,000 per year for five years) in Mrs. Wilder's name for students who show excellence in poetry or creative writing.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:07 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:28 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0 (Pat Doyle left during executive session).

A motion (Padien, Connor) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:29 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: November 18, 2013